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USSN: 09/844,980

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for considering the present application. In the Office Action mailed May 7, 2002, claims 9-23 are pending in the application.

The Examiner has grouped the claims into four groupings, in which Group I has claims 9-13, claims 14-15 are in Group II, claim 16 is in Group III, and claims 17-23 are in Group IV. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner for a reconsideration thereof.

Claims 9, 14 and 17 are all very similar in scope. Each of the claims recites a housing, glass slide member, and elastomer member. Claim 14 includes an analysis device and support base but the remainder of the claim is nearly identical to that of claim 9. Claim 17 is also very similar to that of claim 9 with further definition to the housing. Claim 16 is directed to a method for evaluating materials. However, claim 16 also has some structural limitations in that a step of installing a glass slide member into an analysis device having a housing and an elastomer layer is provided. The glass slide member is then urged into a sealing arrangement with the elastomer housing and samples are passed therethrough for analysis. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsideration of the restriction requirement. At minimum, claims 9, 14 and 17 and their associated dependent claims should all be considered one group. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 16 should also be part of this group because the claims set forth a similar device used in claims 9, 14 and 17. At minimum, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the grouping of the claims, and, at minimum, Groups I, II and IV together. Applicants also request the Examiner to reconsider grouping claim III therein.

In the alternative, applicants elect claims 9-13 without prejudice.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments which would place the application in better condition for allowance, she is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney. Please charge any fees associated with this amendment to Deposit Account 50-0476.

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ARTZ & ARTZ P.C.

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Respectfully submitted,


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